

SAFFRON WALDEN
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THE
Rural District of Saffron Walden

In the Administrative
:: County of Essex. ::

The Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
for the Year 1923.

By S. R. RICHARDSON, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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PREFACE.



To the Chairman and Members of the Sajron Walden Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1923.

This is the fiftieth Annual Report which has been issued, and is arranged in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The statistics of births and deaths, for the year 1923, are based on population estimates furnished by the Registrar General. The estimated population of the district shows a decrease of 25 as compared with that of the previous year.

The birth-rate of 16·0 is slightly higher than that for the previous year.

The death-rate, 13·7, is lower than that for the previous year.

The infant mortality is also lower, the rate being 50 per thousand births. The rate for the year 1922 was 87·5.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases and Tuberculosis was relatively low.

The housing conditions in the district are improved, but a number of families are still living in houses that are unfit for habitation; owing to the shortage and the difficulties of re-housing, it has not been considered advisable to order closure in any of these cases.

S. R. RICHARDSON

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT.



GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 59,975 acres.

Population (estimated) : 9,995

Number of inhabited houses : 2,798

Number of families or separate occupiers : 2880.

Rateable value : £76,566.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £220.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS : Legitimate 173, 31 males, 92 Females.	} Total 180
Illegitimate 7, 6 males, 1 female.	
Birth rate per 1,000 total population, 16·0	

The Birth rate in England and Wales for the year was 19·7 :

DEATHS : 136 (65 males, 71 females). Death rate per 1,000 total population. 13·7.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth from sepsis 0, from other causes 2.

DEATHS of Infants under one year of age : Legitimate 7, Illegitimate 1 : Total 8. Rate per thousand births 50.

THE death rate of infants under 1 year in England and Wales for the year was 69.

DEATHS from Measles (all ages) 0 ; Whooping Cough (all ages) 1 ; Diarrhoea (under 2 years.) 0.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality from any disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Scarlet Fever	6	6	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	2
Other notifiable diseases (Erysipelas) ...	2	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY. NON-PULMONARY				PULMONARY. NON-PULMONARY.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1							1	
5								
10					1			
15								
20			1		2			
25	1				3			
35	1				1			
45								
55		1						
65 upwards.						1		
Totals.	2	1	1		7	1	1	

As regards the deaths from Tuberculosis; in six of these, the disease had previously been notified, in three, notification had not been received. The notification of Tuberculosis in this district is fairly satisfactory.

OPHTHALMIA UEAUOTORUM.

No cases of Ophthalmia were notified during the year.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No other cause of sickness or invalidity has been unusually prevalent, or specially noteworthy in the district.

HOSPITALS :

The Hospital for infectious diseases is the Saffron Walden Urban and Rural Joint Fever Hospital, situated within a mile of Saffron Walden. The Hospital is administered by a Joint Hospital Board, consisting of the Chairman as *ex-officio* member; five members from the Saffron Walden Rural District Council; the Mayor and two members representing the Saffron Walden Urban District Council.

The Saffron Walden General Hospital is available for General Nursing.

A Small-pox Hospital is available for the district, jointly with other districts in North-West Essex.

HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

Midwifery and nursing duties in relation to Tuberculosis School, and Infant Welfare, are carried out by District Nurse Midwives, employed by the District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The work is supervised by a Health Visitor in the service of the Essex County Council.

A Child Welfare Centre has been established at Debden. The Centre is under the control of a Local Voluntary Committee, to whom a grant is made by the County Council. Sessions are held monthly.

Ambulances are available for infections, and non-infectious and accident cases.

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Essex County Laboratory London.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Nuisances or defects found	...	...	...	...	63
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	...	...	...	63
Informal written notices	...	...	...	...	} 61
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	21
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	2

There are twenty six bakehouses in the district, which have been inspected. Circular letters are sent twice a year drawing the attention of the occupiers to the cleansing and limewashing required by the Regulations under the Factory and Workshops Act.

There are seven slaughterhouses in the district. They have been inspected, and are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There is one knacker's yard, the license for which has been renewed during the year.

There are seventeen registered cowkeepers or purveyors of milk. Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order are in force.

Disinfection is carried out by fumigation or spraying with formalin. Twenty-one premises were disinfected during the year.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, Etc.

There are no local Acts or General Adoptive Acts in force in this district.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Staff.—Mr. A. E. PRISTOW is the Sanitary Inspector for the district. The Office is part time.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	8
(b) By District Council	...	...	...	...	—

1. INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	71
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910. 	14
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 	4

II. REMEDY of Defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 	—
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III. ACTION under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— (a) by owners (b) by Local Authority in default of owners...	— —
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices
were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were
remedied— | |
| | (a) by owners | — |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. | — |

C. *Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town
Planning, etc., Act, 1909.*

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the
making of Closing Orders | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing
Orders were made | — |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing
Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses
having been rendered fit | |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition
Orders were made | — |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance
of Demolition Orders | — |



